

MEXICO MISSOURI MESSAGE.

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Took Children Away Then Returned Them

Husband Committed Suicide In Mexico Two Years Ago—Tried To Kill His Wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Ora Newberry lived near Benton City. Trouble arose between them, and in February, 1916, Mrs. Newberry left home and came to Mexico. Newberry came here and tried to get her reconciled, but she spurned him. He then attempted to take her life, and, evidently supposing he had succeeded in his effort, turned his gun upon himself, committing suicide.

Mr. and Mrs. Newberry had two small children, Hazel and Leo, aged four and three years. Citizens of Benton City petitioned the Probate Court not to allow Mrs. Newberry the care of her children, and the court granted the petition and made Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Sharp of Benton City the custodians of the children.

When Mrs. Newberry heard of the decision of the court she moved to Illinois, taking the children with her. But last week she returned and turned the children over to the court, and the court in turn turned them over to Mr. and Mrs. Sharp.

PRAIRIE LEA ITEMS.

Mrs. Brooks received word that her son, Cor. Frank Brooks, arrived safely in France.

Frank Rogers came in from Iowa Tuesday.

The schoolhouse has been reshingled and the yard cleaned up.

Miss Frances Cunningham and her helpers canvassed the district, selling Third Liberty Loan Bonds.

Alvin Anderson and bride of Bu Claire, Wis., spent Sunday at the home of D. L. Rogers. They are traveling by auto from Minneapolis to Mississippi.

Miss Abbie Sullivan returned to her school at Quincy, Ill., after a week's visit with homefolks and friends here.

Mrs. Clayton Snook has been quite sick.

Miss Frances Cunningham visited in St. Louis last week.

HIS DUTY TO RISK ALL.

Farmer Declares He Is Planting As Many Acres As He Can To Help Himself And Aid Uncle Sam.

"As long as men go to the front at the risk of being shot," writes a farmer to the Food Administration, "it is clearly my duty to risk all I possess. It is my duty to take a full risk in planting as many acres as my means will permit. This I am doing in 1918.

"Having leased two extra farms, I propose making this year the supreme effort of my life. If I make a good profit, it will be fully earned. If I but make expenses and produce four times as much food as last year it will be my opportunity to give strength, to give courage to help win. I am planning to farm to the extreme limit.

"One town man last year spent half his holidays helping a farmer, taking his pay in supplies such as potatoes, vegetables and fruits. This plan combines recreation with production and should prove a popular form of war work."

The Mexico Methodist Church members are buying War Certificates and Liberty Bonds and will turn them over to the Official Board. The Extension Board of the Church will cash them to raise \$8,000 with which to rebuild the parsonage and repair the church house.

Mr. and Mrs. Chowning Cauthorn are visiting the family of Theodore Cauthorn near Molino. Chowning has been attending the officers' training school at Camp Pike, Ark., and is to receive an army commission soon.

MEXICO SAVINGS BANK

50th Year in Business
Capital Stock \$100,000

R. M. WHITE, President.
J. R. JESSE, Cashier.

THE JUNIOR RED CROSS GATHERS "GREENS"

A "Dutch" Dinner At The Hoxsey—Major Stoy's Offer—Mrs. Gallimore Takes Dares.

The Junior Red Cross in Central School has been cutting "greens" and bringing their baskets to town and disposing of the contents to the help of their treasury.

The drafted men leave for Camp Funston next Saturday. Audrain Gun Club shoot at the Fair Grounds tomorrow.

A course in nursing and dietetics will be installed in connection with the Red Cross Chapter in Mexico latter part of next month.

Mrs. John C. Morfit and little daughter, Sallie Vandeventer Morfit, are the guests of Mrs. Morfit's mother here, Mrs. Lucy Vandeventer.

The Hardin College girls have elected their queen for the May fete, but they are managing to keep her name from the public. Lucky girl, but how do they keep her good luck so mum?

Miss Clara Mittleberg of Webster Groves, who has been visiting at the home of John O'Brien, near Thompson, is now the guest of Mrs. Rufus Jackson in Mexico.

E. R. Locke says he remembers once upon a time when there was a big fire in Mexico. Harper & Turner burned out. Mr. Locke had the keys to the Court House and opened the doors and the goods from the store were carried in and were kept there more'n a week.

The Chamber of Commerce members met with President Edge of Hardin College at the Hoxsey Hotel Thursday evening and enjoyed a "Dutch" dinner together. Col. E. Y. Burton was toastmaster and introduced Dr. J. W. Million who after a short speech introduced Dr. Edge, who delivered the address of the evening. Dr. Edge expressed his appreciation of the hospitality of Mexico citizens and then gave plans in detail for the future of Hardin College. It is to be a greater Hardin College, the leading school for girls in the State.

Charles Myers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ns Myers here, stationed at Camp Funston, has been promoted to the rank of line sergeant in Co. A, 354th Infantry. Charlie, we salute.

Rev. C. C. Grimes, pastor of the Mexico Methodist Church, will attend the General Conference of the M. E. Church, South, at Atlanta, Ga., which convenes next week. It is the law-making body of the church. It is thought it will endorse the union of the M. E. Church, South, with the M. E. Church. They separated 74 years ago, and they think it is now time for them to get together again and stay together.

Major J. C. Stoy has offered his services to the drafted men of the county to teach them the rudiments of military before they receive their call to go to camp. He does it free. A kindly offer.

L. B. Hawthorne has been re-elected as head of the Mexico schools. It is pleasing to all the patrons. Hawthorne is known to be all right.

Miss Emma Cauthorn, sister of County Clerk Ross B. Cauthorn, is home from Portland, Oregon, where she spent the winter with her brother, Alfred W. Cauthorn.

Roscoe Dobyns, Howard Keath, Bryan Marshall and Fred Peck, all Mexico boys, in army training at Camp Funston, attending the Third Officers' Training Schools, have won distinctions for themselves and each is to receive commissions as officers. Hubert Warden, of near Mexico, was also in this school, but lately he has been very ill.

Jim Breckenridge is in the County Jail on the charge of fighting. He was put under a \$500 bond which he was not able to give.

Mrs. W. A. Gallimore was selling Third Liberty Bonds in Mexico and met a hard customer. He might buy if she would march around the public square carrying a Liberty Loan banner. She took him, performed the stunt and the fellow rewarded her by subscribing for a \$500 bond.

W. A. Paulin of near Skutumpah is home from a visit to his soldier brother, Roy E. Paulin, at Camp Funston. Roy is in the medical division and is getting along fine. He is becoming anxious to go across.

ONE OF MEXICO'S GREATEST FIRES

Ringo Block Goes Up In Smoke--16 Business Places Destroyed And 67 People Out Of Employment.

Mexico suffered one of the greatest fires in her history early last Friday morning. At 3:00 o'clock the Ringo Hotel was discovered to be on fire. "Dad" Jennings, the colored fireman, ran thru the halls crying, "Fire, fire, get out 'o here!" Everybody was aroused and all escaped easily, tho the air was very cold and it was hard on some of the thinly clad babies and some of the grownups who hastened out not waiting to throw on all of their garments.

The fire is thought to have originated in the laundry, in the south-west part of the building. Within a half hour there was dense smoke in every room of the great old building and the flames had spread so that it was soon seen that the Fire Department's efforts to save the building would be in vain.

Efforts were then centered on saving the buildings adjoining on the west. A high northeast wind made the task a most difficult one. The flames swept on to the two French Buildings, which have now suffered the second fire in recent months. One the fire of W. H. Upham and the other the "Good Luck Store" in January. But two buildings now stand—on the northwest corner of the block—unscathed by the fire.

Within 30 minutes after the fire was discovered the Ringo was a pile of ruins. Worrell's Jewelry Store, "On the Corner," was one of the great losses. An organized squad of men, acting with military precision, quietly gathered the valuables into boxes and carried and stored them in the Court House. Furniture and valuables from other business places were also carried to the Court House. Sheriff J. G. Ford stood guard till the doors were ready to be closed. Most of Mr. Worrell's stock was saved. All his fixtures and some valuable papers were lost. He had one of the most noted jewelry stores of any town in the State.

The Jurgensen Millinery Store, on the west, was destroyed. There was \$1,000 insurance. C. B. Morris' White Kitchen Cafe was also lost. The South Side Drug Store and the Busy Bee Candy Shop were also ruined. The Busy Bee had \$1,000 insurance. Dr. T. D. Moore, Dr. Hal Daniel, dentists, and J. W. Daniel, real estate, lost their office fixtures. C. A. Witherspoon, abstractor, saved his valuable papers but lost his office fixtures.

H. A. Foster, proprietor of the Ringo, had \$6,000 insurance on his furniture, valued at \$11,000. The hotel building was owned by the Robert Johnson heirs and was valued at \$70,000. There was \$25,000 insurance.

G. B. Null lost his cigar stand in the hotel; a total loss, no insurance. Part of the fixtures of the two barber shops in the building, Holmes and Pitts, were saved. Holmes had \$600 insurance and Pitts \$500.

The Western Union Telegraph Co. lost all its fine equipment. Frank McCord saved the contents of his electric shoe shop.

H. E. C. Tucker, insurance and real estate, lost his desk and other furniture.

Other Comment.
R. D. Worrell will be "On the Corner" again in the Wilkins Building, just across the street north of the City Hall.

C. A. Witherspoon is with Harrison over the Savings Bank.

S. P. Emmons recalls the year the Ringo was built—1866, one year after the close of the Civil War. A. R. Ringo was the owner, and Jim Sullinger was the builder. During the progress of the work Emmons was hurried one day down to Montgomery City to hasten-up the shipment of the lime and cement.

Miss Jurgensen will be in the building one door east of Ragsdale's Cash Store.

If it had not been for "Dad" Jennings' discovery of the fire just

when he did and immediately crying the alarm, there no doubt would have been tragedy and death among the occupants of the hotel.

About 16 years ago Mexico had just such a fire—it was more widespread. The whole east side of the block on which the Hoxsey Hotel now stands was swept by fire. Dr. W. T. Kendall lost his life in the smoke and flames and 29 horses were burned to death. The flames licked across Liberty street and the M. E. Church building was burned.

Did fire boys ever work harder? When will the burnt district be rebuilt, that is the question that interests all of us.

The total of the big fire is thought to have been about \$200,000.

The citizenry love R. D. Worrell. They saw his great risk and every hand was turned to do him considerable and careful service.

"Buy now and pay later" was on the ground. He was discouraged with the calamity, but was out the next two following days selling Third Liberty Loan Bonds to beat the band.

Many of the wee children at the time the Ringo was built are now men and women past the meridian of life.

Woodrow Wilson escaped from the big fire. The picture adorned one of the show windows at Worrell's and had been borrowed from The Message a few days before. Somebody took it up and carried it safely into the Court House. The fine oil painting of A. R. Ringo, which hung in the lobby of the hotel, was forgotten and lost.

SERVICES OF SHEEP MAN FOR MISSOURI FARMERS

The United States Department of Agriculture has stationed D. A. Spencer, a sheep specialist, at the University of Missouri College of Agriculture, Columbia. Mr. Spencer's services may be had by any community which is interested in a demonstration in docking lambs or shearing and packing wool. Provided dates can be arranged. Groups of farmers interested in receiving such demonstrations may get in touch with Mr. Spencer by addressing the College of Agriculture at Columbia.

SOON TO GO ACROSS.

James Grafford, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Grafford of Mexico, who has been in army training at Camp Doniphan, dropped a post card to his parents here last week saying he was just sitting down to breakfast in New York City.

James will likely be in training at one of the Eastern camps for a time, when he expects to receive orders to go across.

"CAN ILLINOIS BEAT IT?"

Grant Morthland, out near Molino, is getting rich selling seed corn. He raised corn last year that tested 97 per cent. Recently he sold the Council of Defense of Illinois 2,500 bushels and has received an order for 1,000 bushels more.

Those in charge at the point where the corn was shipped placed a placard over Morthland's test, reading, "Missouri did this, can Illinois beat it?"

HOME FROM OKLAHOMA.

Z. T. Bondurant, who resides six miles south of Vandalla, was in Mexico Friday on his way home from Frederick, Okla., where he buried his father, George Bondurant, a few days before. He was accompanied by his little nephew, seven years old, Powell Robinson, who will visit in Missouri for a time. He is the son of Mrs. Bertie Robinson, who before her marriage was Miss Bertie Simpson of Laddonia, this county.

FAMILIES STARVING—350,000 NEW CONSCRIPTIVE MEN.

McAdoo To Clip Millions Of Miles From Passenger Travel.

Washington, D. C., April 7.—Thousands of families in Bohemia, especially at Prague and vicinity, are starving, according to an official dispatch from France today. Which quoted the Leipziger Zeitung. Last week it was estimated that there was a deficit of 100,000 loaves of bread in Prague.

Washington, D. C., April 18.—The House Military Affairs Committee reported to the House yesterday the resolution for the registration of all men becoming "21 since June 5, 1917."

Washington, D. C., April 18.—Director General McAdoo is about to clip millions of miles from the passenger transportation west of the Mississippi by a new train schedule, which he is preparing. The new schedule will be ready for publication in about ten days. It was learned by the railway heads here today.

Washington, D. C., April 18.—One hundred and fifty drafted men, three times the month's quota, will be sent into training camps during May, Provost Marshal Crowder announced today. By June 300,000 of the second draft will be in the training camps. Men can now be supplied as rapidly as the camps are vacated.

Des Moines, Iowa, April 11.—"A bonfire should be made of all German books in Iowa schools lauding the kaiser and teaching the German philosophy of German domination."

Stirred with the thought of our own men bravely facing death and dying on the battle line while the insidious propaganda of the kaiser is allowed to flourish in our schools, A. M. Deyoe, state superintendent of public instruction, makes the above declaration.

TWENTY-ONE MEN TO LEAVE APRIL 27.

To Entrain In Mexico Next Saturday And Then Be Off To Camp

Funston Over The Alton.

Audrain county's next quota of men under the selective draft are to entrain in Mexico next Saturday afternoon, at 1:46, and then will be off for Camp Funston over the Chicago & Alton railroad. The list is as follows:

Clarence F. Morhaus.
George S. Weaver.
Charles H. Pullis.
Clinton H. Foreman.
Harry E. Fecht.
Frederick R. Hibbert.
Clarence E. Schooling.
George Porter.
Raymond J. Hutcherson.
Ernest Penn.
James P. Coons.
John R. Swan.
Clark C. Fenton.
Horace W. Summers.
William A. Spencer.
William W. Wright.
Allen Donovan.
Charles B. Pigg.
Charles E. Syler.
Robert L. James.
Fred O. Pearson.

MISS MELAHN MARRIED.

Miss Grace Melahn, the accomplished and attractive daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Melahn of Rush Hill, and Mr. Orville Staples of Sopha, Colo., a most worthy young man, were united in marriage a few days ago. They will reside in Colorado. We wish them long life and happiness.

THREE NEW TEACHERS.

The Mexico School Board has re-elected the old corps of teachers, adding three new ones, to fill vacancies—Miss Lucy Denham, formerly of Mexico, now of near Centralia, who will be at the head of the Latin Department; J. A. Wisdom, of Chillicothe, to teach Agriculture and Physics, and Miss Pearl Vanhorne, of Mexico, to be instructor in Central School.

The Board ordered that nonresident pupils hereafter must pay \$30 a year in the grade schools and \$40 in the High School, no pupil to be permitted to attend classes until tuition is paid.

Consolidated School Rev. Nichols' Work

Miss McCubbin Married—Miss Hammett's New Work—Ed. Whitehouse In Europe.

Laddonia, Mo., April 19.—Geo. Smith, Jr., arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Smith, south of town, April 13, and will proceed to make the old gentleman feed and clothe him for the next few years—even if he has to eat war bread to do so.

C. Putman, at one time a resident of this place, father of Otto Putman, northwest of here, died at his home in New York State recently. This will be sad news to his many friends here.

Will Wellen of Idaho and Miss Mattelene Bevans of Vandalla were married Sunday afternoon. They are splendid young people.

Rev. C. E. Olsen has been sent to Mayville, Mo. He filled his first appointment at that place Sunday. Rev. Olsen is a bundle of energy, and made many friends while here. We wish him continuous steps upward in his service for the Master.

Rev. Don W. Nichols and singer, Mr. Crawler, are holding services of evenings and every afternoon at the Presbyterian church. The brother is preaching some fine sermons, and the singing is inspiring. Let all attend these meetings.

The School Board met last week and organized. C. E. Mayhall, president. D. C. Hutton, vice-president; J. J. Alexander, clerk; W. H. Logan, treasurer.

Mrs. Stanley Hagar has been quite sick at the home of her parents at Vandalla. Rev. and Mrs. McDonald at Vandalla we are glad to report improving. Their baby died last week.

If you have not bought a Liberty Bond and are able, our Uncle Sam will be looking after you sooner or later.

Fire still feels good in the house. Some are forcing spring. Mrs. P. P. Hummel of Sedalia is visiting her mother, Mrs. Virginia Elzea, here.

Several little lassies from Farber were here Sunday horseback riding. This is fine exercise for them.

A. B. Landrum of East St. Louis is here spending several days with friends.

Miss Anna Hammett is employed in Attorney Clarence Barnes' office at Mexico as stenographer. She will go to Quincy in a short time to enter the business college.

Miss Verlea McCubbin, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John W. McCubbin of this city, surprised her many friends by going to Washington, D. C., where she was married to Stewart L. Gomer. Mrs. Gomer had been teaching at King City, but smallpox broke out and they dismissed school for a couple of weeks. Mr. Gomer was manager of the LaCrosse Lumber Co.'s business at this place and resigned to join the Engineering Corps of the Army and was stationed at Washington, D. C. Mrs. Verlea is an accomplished young lady, and Mr. Gomer is a splendid young man. We wish them a long and happy life.

Mrs. Leslie Syler and little daughter of Dakota arrived here Tuesday to visit M. W. Syler's family.

Laddonia should have a consolidated school. There are several districts close to town that should be in with us, and then we could build a new and up-to-date building and have a school second to none in the county, and at very little cost.

D. C. Hutton, Jr., was confined to his bed Tuesday.

Mrs. Ross Hubble arrived home from Camp Funston Tuesday night. Her husband has gone East.

Ed. Whitehouse writes his friends here that he has safely arrived in France.

M. L. Travis was on the market last week with a car load of cattle.

Mrs. Ed. Shobe is visiting her sister, Mrs. Ray Landrum, in East St. Louis.

Uncle Sam is going to look after the farmer and the town man, too, who is able to own a home and does not do so.

Theo. J. Williams is serving on the Federal Grand Jury in St. Louis.